

In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown. Please cancel claims 1 and 10 without prejudice

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The computer system of claim 1 wherein the signal indicates that the request to access the interface is a best effort request.~~

A computer system comprising:

a first agent;

a point to point half duplex interface coupled to the first agent; and

a second agent, coupled to the point to point half duplex interface, to transmit a signal to the first agent via a first component of the interface indicating a best effort request to access the interface, and the first agent to transmit a signal to the second agent via the first component of the interface indicating a type of access of the interface the first agent is requesting.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The computer system of claim 1 wherein the signal indicates that the request to access the interface is a critical request.~~

A computer system comprising:

a first agent;

a point to point half duplex interface coupled to the first agent; and

a second agent, coupled to the point to point half duplex interface, to transmit a signal to the first agent via a first component of the interface indicating a critical request to access the interface, and the first agent to transmit a signal to the second agent via the first component of the interface indicating a type of access of the interface the first agent is requesting.

4. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 3 wherein the first agent preempts access of the interface by the second agent if the second agent is a best effort access.
5. (Original) The computer system of claim 3 wherein the first component of the interface is a preempt wire.
6. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 3 wherein the first agent preempts access of the interface by the second agent if a timer corresponding to the second agent has expired.
7. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 3 wherein the second agent retains access of the interface if the second agent is a critical access and a timer corresponding to the second agent has not expired.
8. (Original) The computer system of claim 5 wherein the preempt wire is a single, half duplex wire, shared by the first and second agents.
9. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 2 ~~4~~ wherein the signal is adaptable to be upgraded from a best effort request to a critical request.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim ~~10~~ 12 wherein the ICH transmits a signal to the MCH via the first component of the interface indicating the type of access of the interface the ICH is requesting the MCH.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The computer system of claim 10 wherein the signal indicates that the request to access the interface is a critical request.~~

A computer system comprising:

a memory control hub (MCH);

a first point to point interface coupled to the MCH; and

an input/output control hub (ICH) coupled to the point to point interface, the MCH to transmit a signal to the ICH via a first component of the interface indicating a critical request to access the interface.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The computer system of claim 10 wherein the signal indicates that the request to access the interface is a best effort request.~~

A computer system comprising:

a memory control hub (MCH);

a first point to point interface coupled to the MCH; and

an input/output control hub (ICH) coupled to the point to point interface, the MCH to transmit a signal to the ICH via a first component of the interface indicating a best effort request to access the interface.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim ~~12~~ 11 wherein the MCH preempts access of the interface by the ICH if the signal transmitted from the ICH is a best effort access or a timer corresponding to the ICH has expired.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim ~~12~~ 11 wherein the ICH retains access of the interface if the signal transmitted from the ICH is a critical access and a timer corresponding to the ICH has not expired.

16. (Original) A method comprising:
a first agent requesting a critical access to a point to point half duplex interface;
determining whether a second agent has control of the interface;
if so, asserting a preempt component of the interface at the first agent; and
waiting for control of the interface to be granted to the first agent.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising granting control of the interface to the first agent if the second agent does not have control of the interface.
18. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising:
the second agent sampling the asserted preempt component of the interface;
determining whether the current access of the interface at the second agent is a critical access; and
if not, relinquishing control of the interface by the second agent.
19. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising granting control of the interface to the first agent after the second agent has relinquished control.
20. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising:
determining whether a timer has expired if the current access of the interface at the second agent is a critical access;
if so, relinquishing control of the interface by the second agent; and
granting control of the interface to the first agent.
21. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising:

determining whether a timer has expired if the current access of the interface at the second agent is a critical access; and

if not, retaining control of the interface at the second agent.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the first agent asserts the preempt component of the interface one clock cycle after the second agent is granted control of the interface.

23. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the preempt component of the interface is asserted for the duration the first agent waits to be granted control of the interface.

24. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the preempt component of the interface is asserted for a one clock cycle duration.

25. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising upgrading the requested access to the point to point half duplex interface from a best effort request to the critical request.